



Zero Waste Arlington Oct 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/26/23

Time: 7pm

Location: *Online Zoom Meeting*

Attendees: Priya Sankalia, Scott Mullen, Jennifer Campbell, Jim Ballin, Larry Slotnick, Paul Goldberg, Sarah Kmetz

Guests: Julie Benyo

1. Old Business
 - a. Review and approve August 2023 ZWA meeting minutes.
2. New Business
 - a. Town Day Review
 - i. Recap of Day
 - ii. Next Steps/Follow Up Actions
 - b. Waste reduction warrant articles discussion
 - c. Subcommittee Updates
 - d. Miscellaneous Topics

Minutes

1. The committee approved minutes for September 2023.
2. Town Day Review
 - a. Larry needs us to deal with the water bottles we collected for Town Day which are now stored at FoodLink
 - i. We can sort through them and if there aren't any good ones we can toss them out and save the others
 - ii. Julie, Emily, Priya, Larry volunteered to help out with sorting and storing
3. LexZero meeting
 - a. Cross pollinate with a neighboring zero waste organization to make a connection.
 - b. Paul added that they are at the vanguard of some of the zero waste issues.
 - c. Having Michele Ciccolo (state rep) at the meeting would be great.
 - d. Margie has a contact
 - e. Get together and do a meet and greet with a Zero Waste focus
 - f. Mully has given folks a scheduling form

4. Waste Reduction articles

- a. Jim flagged that we need to start thinking about this right now if we want to think about an article. Take out - black plastic might take a lot of research.
- b. Priya suggested that since we have been doing a lot of work maybe we take a break on local legislation and take on state-wide legislation or educate folks more on what we've already done
- c. Maybe a regulation on business recycling? Comprehensive hauler regulation. Need Charlotte to weigh in. Seems very doable.
- d. Emily talked about the restaurant outreach - most are already not giving out the single use plastic. The ones that are not are doing it only because they don't want to lose customers.
 - i. There are very few scenarios where they are giving them out
 - ii. 2/3rds of the restaurants are already doing this
 - iii. Does this need to be a by-law?
 - iv. NYC and Newton have ordinances and by-laws - maybe we talk to Newton and see how they arrived at the by-law.
 - v. On a state level the governor is planning an environmental bill which might have a bunch of things relevant to us.
 - vi. Skip the stuff is gaining traction and it might make sense to work with some of the neighboring towns on this.
 - vii. Jennifer feels like regulation is what moves the needle. We could take on the boxed water - to add it to the single use water bottle article - as an amendment. Take it on after Nov 7 after the override vote which everyone is focused on. We might need to do some vetting.
 - viii. Emily will do some research and Jennifer will reach out to Alan Gordon (Newton) and we will do some vetting.

5. No Plastic Please discussion

- a. The name might not be working - people are pretty confused. The name is absolute in the NO and the focus on one material indicates that others are fine - that's not the message we want to send.
- b. What is it that we're trying to do - reduce single use items - it's not material specific, it's flexible and attainable
- c. Some dine-in restaurants don't have dishwashing capacity or don't have staff.
- d. Back away from the strict language of No
- e. Amy, Emily, Margie have been thinking about this and will continue to work through it and see how we can change the words on the logo etc.

6. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Amy doing the Library display for November. Emily helping with designing. Does anyone have any book suggestions?
- b. Priya and Larry met with Amethyst - Project Zero at the high school
- c. Charlotte to have the Volunteer appreciation event on Nov 16

Meeting adjourned at 8:36

